

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 have been pending.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for being indefinite.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Hashimoto (US 2002/0012453).

Claims 1-2 and 5-9 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto.

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of Eaton (US Patent No. 5,483,588).

Claims 1, 4, 6, 8 and 10 are amended, new claims 11-15 are added, and, thus, claims 1-15 remain pending for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added in this Amendment. The foregoing rejections are hereby traversed.

35 USC 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH, REJECTION

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for being indefinite, as indicated in page 2, item 2, of the Office Action. Claim 10 is amended, taking into consideration the Examiner's comments. Withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection of claim 10 is respectfully requested.

35 USC 102 and 103 REJECTIONS

The claimed present invention facilitates operation at a data processing apparatus, such as a cash dispenser installed in a bank or a photocopier installed in a convenience store. For example, conventionally, when operating a cash dispenser (or automated teller machine) for depositing money to the bank account of a recipient, the user must go to the bank and perform everything necessary until the cash dispenser execute the desired job, which is rather troublesome and therefore can cause a long queue (a long line of waiting people). In contrast to conventional systems, including Hashimoto and Eaton, according to the present invention, part of the job process is performed at a remote location, such as at a home, via a network, by using a personal computer (communication terminal) up to the extent of sending job information

to the cash dispenser (data processing apparatus), while the remaining part (normally, lesser part) of the job process is performed at the cash dispenser. Therefore, according to the claimed present invention, the job processes performed by the personal computer via the network, do not complete the entire job process, because the user still needs to complete the job process at the data processing apparatus, for example, by going to the bank for putting money (cash) into the dispenser before executing deposit to the bank account of the recipient. Such division of the process has a benefit of greatly reducing the time needed at the bank.

US 2002/0012453 A1 to Hashimoto et al merely discloses sharing of a LAN printer or scanner 94, 95 between different computers ST1, ST2, STN, via a server SP1. As pointed out above, conventionally, such as in Hashimoto, each computer sends over the network job information with all other instructions needed for completing a printing or a scanning job at the printer or scanner without any further input to the printer or scanner. Thus, Hashimoto is basically different from the claimed present invention, because the claimed present invention makes a sharp contrast against Hashimoto's sharing of a LAN (Local Area Network) printer or scanner among a plurality of computers via a server. Thus, in other words, in a conventional networked computer system, the user does not need to go to the data processing apparatus to complete a job process.

The Examiner relies on Eaton to reject dependent claims 3 and 4 concerning the claimed present invention's use of "job acceptance number" and "password." Eaton, column 10, lines 5-8, which is relied upon by the Examiner, discloses using a conference call ID when modifying a previously scheduled conference call. However, Eaton's conference call ID and Hashimoto, even if combined, do not disclose or suggest the claimed present invention as recited in independent claims 1, 8, and 10 to allow part of a job process for a data processing apparatus to be performed by a user via a personal computer via network, not completing the entire job process, and the user completes the job process at the data processing apparatus via specifying the job.

Independent claims 1, 8 and 10 have been amended to clarify the above-described patentably distinguishing features of the present invention. Specifically, amended claim 1 sets forth a data processing apparatus connectable to an external communication terminal via a communication network. The data processing apparatus comprises a job information receiver for receiving job information supplied from the external communication terminal via the network. The job information includes contents of a desired job performed by the data processing apparatus. The data processing apparatus also comprises a job information register for

registering the received job information, a job information specifier that specifies the job information registered in the job information register, and a procedure controller for causing the job to be performed based on the specified job information. The procedure controller of the data processing apparatus **“causes the external communication terminal to perform a series of preliminary steps for generating the job information received by the job information receiver, in response to an input from a user to the external communication terminal, the series of preliminary steps not causing the data processing apparatus to perform the job.”** Then, the procedure controller of the data processing apparatus also performs **“a series of validating steps for causing the data processing apparatus to perform the job in response to another input by the user, via the job information specifier, to the data processing apparatus.”**

More particularly, in contrast to Hashimoto and Eaton, the claimed present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1, 8 and 10, using claim 1 as an example, provides:

1. (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus connectable to an external communication terminal via a communication network, the apparatus comprising:

a job information receiver for receiving job information supplied from the external communication terminal via the network, the job information ~~being related to a required procedure including contents of a desired job to be performed by the data processing apparatus;~~

a job information register for registering the received job information;

a job information specifier for specifying the job information registered in the job information register; and

a procedure controller for ~~controlling said required procedure causing the job to be performed~~ based on the specified job information;

wherein the procedure controller, via the communication network, **causes the external communication terminal to perform a series of preliminary steps for generating the job information received by the job information receiver, in response to an input from a user to the external communication terminal, the series of preliminary steps not causing the data processing apparatus to perform the job;** and

wherein the procedure controller also performs **a series of validating steps for causing the data processing apparatus to perform the job in response to another input by the user, via the job information specifier, to the data processing apparatus** (emphasis added).

Support for the claim amendments can be found, for example, from page 11, line 1 to page 16, line 4 of the present Application.


CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
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